The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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COURTS GAN'T SETTLE INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

New York, July 24.—There is nothing to support the claim that because courts adjust differences between persons, this theory would apply to industrial disputes, says the National Civic Federation Review.

"One of the most popular arguments for the Kansas court-of-strike" law is that it treats industrial disputes in the same manner as society treats all other disputes, through courts of law. Do we not exhaust all the differences, it is said, over nature, to judges and juries, even about intimate affairs? The control of our children, our marriage relations, the question of inheritance of property and of other matters are applied by courts of law. To say that there are any more delicate questions arising in the relations between the employer and the employe than between a man and his wife is, they argue, an absurdity.

"This view is so generally maintained by the public that it is almost accepted as an axiom. Every lawyer, educated to revere the courts in the ever-day practice, naturally upholds this view.

"But are industrial disputes to be classed with all other disputes? Emphatically, no. The principles governing disputes in general have been evolved out of centuries of experience, by trial and error processes, and, concededly, just codes and precedents have been established governing almost every conceivable phase of misunderstanding.

"Not so in the industrial world. There is no agreed code, no agreed precedent. Changes in public sentiment from time to time as long as when, as Mr. Gompers pointed out, it was a crime for laborers to strike, when legislation was sought for a maximum wage, while now it is sought for a minimum wage, there has been so revolutionary as to baffle all attempts to formulate a standard from which a code could be evolved."

NOW WHO'S CONSPIRING?

Indianapolis, July 24.—"Who is now conspiring to boost the price of coal and curtail production?" asks the United Mine Workers' Journal.

"All over the country," says this labor paper, "the people are being compelled to pay outrageous prices for coal, regardless of the fact that the cost of production has not increased to any appreciable degree. Coal is selling at unheard of prices but the wages of the miners remain unchanged. All of the increase is added after the coal leaves the hands of the miner.

"Last fall some one conceived the idea that the coal miners had entered into a conspiracy to boost the price and restrict the production of coal, and they were prosecuted by the government.

"But just how a gouge is being carried on with which it would be wholly impossible to connect the fact that the miners were in any manner connected.

"Who is now conspiring to keep up the price of coal? Is anything being done to stop this wild profiteering?

"Not on your life. Possibly if the miners could be hooked up with the affair in some manner some one might be convicted. But nothing of the kind is being done at present."

"CLOSED" SHOP IS NON-UNION.

Albany, N. Y., July 24.—Editor Carry of the Paper Makers' Journal refuses to accept the version of the shop that trade union opponents attempt to fasten onto union shops.

"A union shop or a closed agreement in any factory," says this labor editor, "is not a closed agreement against any one who will obey the rules or terms of the agreement and the organization that made the agreement, in order that the parties will be governed by the agreement. Many one who is fair to himself will admit that the union seeks to bring into membership all people in the industry in which they are employed.

"Our contention is that the 'closed' shop is a non-union shop. We have a letter of the same tenor contributed by the A. W. D. Weiss company of Lodi, Ill., which bears out our contention. The following is a copy of the poster they distributed: 'Your choice of work and clothing. Work as many hours as you please in the A. W. D. Weiss North Star Egg Case company. Closed shop against union men.'"

PASS MOTHERS' AID BILL.

Baton Rouge, La., July 24. — The state legislature has passed the Durr mothers' aid bill after a fight that started in 1916.

Any widow or woman whose husband is permanently disabled or imprisoned is made a beneficiary under the bill, provided that she is the mother of at least one child under 16 years old and has a previous residence for at least one year in the parish (county) where the application is made. The maximum allowance to each applicant is $50 monthly.

Each case will be considered by a commission of three to be appointed by the juvenile court of the district court in parishes (counties) where there is a juvenile court.

OPPOSE NEW TAX PLAN.

Baltimore, July 24.—The proposal of big business to replace income and other taxes on wealth with a tax on each purchase is opposed by the Maryland Agricultural society. The farmers' organization says this system would be unfair to the poorer classes and would mean that the bulk of federal taxes should be raised from income profits and luxuries.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Henderson, Ky., July 24.—The annual convention of the state federation of labor will be held in this city, beginning September 4.

WILL COAL MEN PEDDLE EMPLOYES' CABBAGES?

Scranton, Pa., July 24.—Testifying before the anthracite wage commission one coal owner declared that miners overtook many opportunities to meet living costs; that after their day's labor they could work in gardens, raise chickens and care for a cow. In reply the miners ask if the coal owners will abandon annual vacations to the mountains in the summer and to the south in the winter to peddle cabbages their employes raise. Then, they assert, all would benefit the public because the coal owners would not require present profits for their coal.

The miners insist that it is just as reasonable to ask the coal owners to peddle their cabbages and chickens while on a sale line, as it is to ask employes who work in a dark coal mine all day to be forced to labor at home to secure a living wage.

The miners continue their objection to the refusal of the coal owners to submit their books to prove profits. The coal owners say their profits will not permit of wage increases and they refuse to permit these profits to be a part of the investigation.

In his closing argument to the commission of President Nathan Williams, United Mine Workers said:

"When we sought to demonstrate by an inquiry into the monopolistic domination of the industry and its abnormally large earnings, direct and indirect, that our just wage demands could be met and the increase absorbed by the profits of a few of their profits without an increase in the price of coal to consumers, we encountered a technical objection from the operators, who raised the question as to the jurisdiction of the commission to go into the matter of costs, prices, profits and monopoly."

MARTIAL LAW IN TEXAS.

Galveston, July 24.—Citizens of Galveston now agree that Prussianism in America is not only possible, but is a fact, as far as this city is concerned. Dock workers are on strike because steamships are refusing to grant an arbitrate wage demands and the governor has ordered troops to their docks to proclaimed martial law. Recently the troops dissolved a meeting of the peace citizens.

The dock workers have been organized in the longshoremen's union. They show that dock workers at Texas ports are paid 20 cents an hour more than they are for the same kind of work. Their committee, headed by Joseph Ryan, of New York, Washington and New Orleans and Lee Hall, of Galveston, said: Last June officers of the International Longshoremen's association and the employers' association of the New York chamber of commerce met to arbitrate the wage scale. New Yorkers then ask the steamship managers if they would accept the award and received "We have nothing to arbitrate."

The dock workers then suspended work and the governor, instead of using every moral force at his command, aided the companies, has ordered out the troops.

FORM WORLD UNION.

Washington, July 24.—The chamber of commerce of the United States has issued a report on the activities of the international chamber of commerce, recently held in Paris, which was attended by seventy men, representing the United States, Great Britain, France, Belgium and other countries present.

The president of the new world union is Francois Marsal, minister of finance. Clementel, former French minister of commerce. One of the vice presidents is A. C. Bedford, Standard oil official.

The resolutions include declarations in favor of closer business relations between the nations and the abolition of duplicate taxation of wealth of individuals or organizations in more than one country.

The next meeting of the new organization will be held in London. Temporary headquarters have been established in Paris.

NO MORE GIANT LINERS.

San Francisco, July 24.—The seamen's Journal calls attention to a recent statement by a vessel owner, president Taft declares that the gigantic liners has passed because of the enormous cost of fuel.

It has been found almost impossible to get full cargoes for these monsters and at the same time maintain a regular passenger service, it is also shown that there are only three or four ports in the entire world that they can enter when fully loaded, and that wherever they enter they require special terminal and docking facilities.

These conditions cause the president that the day has passed when vessels will be nearly one-fifth of a mile long.

UPHOLD ANTI CONTRACT.

Cincinnati, July 24.—Judge Hickenlooper of the superior court has rendered a decision in a dozen plaints from asking non-unionists to join organizations of labor while they are employed or to take such action before they begin work in their employ.

Judge Hickenlooper's decision is based on a similar ruling by the United States supreme court, which upheld an injunction against employers soliciting union membership among employes of a West Virginia company who had signed contracts not to join the union.

CANADA UNIONS TO MEET.

Windsor, Ontario, July 24.—The Canadian Trades and Labor Congress will hold its annual convention in this city beginning Monday, September 12. The congress is a legislative body and is composed of international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

STATES HAVE VIDE "PUBLIC WELFARE" POWER

Washington, July 24.—A municipal fuel yard may be the basis for a new line of United States supreme court decisions, according to political observers who have noted the court's recent action in sustaining North Dakota laws passed by the non-partisan league legislature of that state.

The municipal fuel yard case came before the United States supreme court from Maine. The Maine legislature had given the city of Portland the right to establish fuel yards for the purpose of selling wood, coal and fuel at cost to inhabitants. The act defined the term "at cost" as meaning "without financial profit."

The Maine supreme court upheld the act and the decision was appealed to the United States supreme court on the ground that the establishment of a fuel yard is not a public purpose and that cities cannot maintain one would be taking property without due process of law, which is a violation of the fourteenth amendment to the federal constitution.

The same contention was made by North Dakota citizens who appealed the non-partisan league laws to the United States supreme court.

Under municipal fuel yard law the United States supreme court ruled that there is no vital difference in a city maintaining a central heating plant that furnished heat through pipes to homes and delivering coal direct to the user's home.

"It seems illogical," said the court, "to hold that a municipality may perform the additional service or cost if it can reach them through pipes, but that it cannot do so above the highways, but not if it can reach them by teams traveling over the highways. To do so would be to make it something of a task to sustain the ordinary intelligence citizen that an act of the legislature authorizing the former is constitutional but that a statute authorizing the latter is unconstitutional beyond all reasonable doubt."

When the North Dakota non-partisan league laws came before the United States supreme court, the court stated that the nearest approach to this question that was ever presented to it was the Portland municipal fuel yard case.

The North Dakota laws are a mark in authorizing the state to function in activities that have heretofore been considered private business.

Under these laws a state commission is authorized to establish a state bank, to loan money on farm land, to build homes and to establish a state warehouse, elevator and flour mill system. The commission is given sweeping power to manufacture and sell at prices set by it all kinds of raw and manufactured products, to buy such products and to operate markets and agencies any where in America or in foreign countries. The commission is empowered to buy all lands necessary for any of its work by right of eminent domain. This program is to be financed by the state of North Dakota.

In upholding these laws the supreme court distinguished between a tax for private purposes and for public purposes. The court reaffirmed former decisions that it will not "due process of law, as contained in the fourteenth amendment, and insisted that legislation must be based on each individual case.

The North Dakota decision, said the court, "was adopted under the broad power of the state to enact laws raising by taxation such sums as are deemed necessary to promote purposes essential to the general welfare of the people.

"With the wisdom of such legislation, and the soundness of the economic policy involved, we are not concerned. Whether it will result ultimately in good to the state, not within our provinces to inquire. The decision, for instance, in the court, 'states and municipalities have in late years seen fit to enter upon the path of constructive activities, in which in the past have been considered entirely within the domain of private enterprise.

"Under the peculiar (agricultural) conditions existing in North Dakota, which are emphasized in the opinion of its highest court, if the state sees fit to enter upon such enterprises as are here involved, and to establish a system of taxation, its legislature and its people, we are not prepared to say that it is within the authority of this court, in enforcing the observance of the fourteenth amendment, to set aside such action by judicial decision."

SAIL UNDER FALSE COLORS.

Edmonton, Alberta, July 24. — The Free Press has been asked why we persistently oppose the socialist movement and the Independent Free Press, owned by the local trades and labor council.

It is because it is founded upon false principles. It is a paper run in the interest of a few, who are working for their own profit, and not for the benefit of the whole community.

We are willing to take labor papers as evidence. Glance over any paper controlled by the international movement and the reader sees multiplied instances where the workers have struck for more wages or better conditions through their international unions. But a careful reading of the Free Press fails to reveal anything of the kind. The columns of such papers are used largely to slander and vilify individuals who are really accomplishing something for the work people of Canada. The Free Press will not be found supporting any effort that it will be found opposing and condemning any attempt to organize labor under false colors. We are only interested in organization of the people that have been long suffering class. Any organization that is truly interested in the welfare of has or which otherwise might make interested with the complainant is

WHY TEACHERS LOST.

Los Angeles, July 24. — High school teachers in this city have failed in their fight for a wage increase. Organized labor offered to aid them, but the teachers objected to everything that was not voted "quite proper" by our best citizens. They will now have to get their salvation from this paper and the body it represents.

WORKERS HAVE RIGHTS.

Chicago, July 24.—The public has rights, of course, but so have workers," says the International Steam Engineer, which declares that "the public has a right to live in a contented enjoyment of its rights while the workers have rights.

"It is regrettable that we are compelled to strike to better our lower level. It is more essential to the welfare of society that the working men and women be well paid and have satisfactory working conditions than the public should not be annoyed.

"Self defense is the first law of nature. The strike is the only means we have by which we can secure these rights. While others fight we will, therefore, permit no one to forget that we cannot fight for our lives."

"MOLDING" PUBLIC OPINION.

Salt Lake City, July 24.—In submitting newspapers the Utah Idaho Sugar company makes no attempt to conceal its motive.

The Utah Labor News publishes a reproduction of a letter the company sent to its employes in which it announced that it had forwarded copies to the papers.

"Will also advise," continues the letter, "that this company is now prepared to extend its advertising activities, and the medium we will use in order to secure the support that is friendly and loyal to the sugar industry and our own organization and particularly to the intention to read your paper with a view to obtaining information that will be helpful to us in our campaign of Mingo county.

In quashing the indictment against Haywood, it stated that even if the allegation could be proven this did not constitute an overt act against the laws of West Virginia.

COAL OWNERS SCORED.

New York, July 24. — Coal owners are conducting a propaganda to confuse the consumers and if the government does not act a famine threatens New England next winter, according to a statement issued by a joint committee appointed by the governors of the six New England states.

"The situation has been much misunderstood throughout the country; it is stated, "because the National Coal association and coal operators began making enormous profits out of export coal, has been carrying on the most persistent propaganda to throw dust in the eyes of the people of Washington and also in the eyes of the public, and has made a constant outpouring of misleading statements in newspapers and other publications.

"The National Coal association has been endeavoring to aid its members to hide from the United States the tremendous profits they have been making from coal, both from domestic and foreign trade purposes."

It is stated that if the coal owners had played fair with the American people, "they might be entitled to exceed their efforts. Their selfish course seems to us to make it necessary for Uncle Sam, for the time trying to get out of the coal business to go back into it—at least to the extent necessary to protect the people of this country."

OPPOSE COMPULSION.

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, July 24.—Australian employers are issuing faith in compulsory arbitration and the state legislation as a remedy for industrial differences. In a "confidential circular and Progress," a manufacturers' publication, issued in this city, declaration was made against the whole theory of force, actual and implied, upon which present labor laws governing conditions legislation rests.

"The whole business should be left to the editor," says the article as wide as possible, to employers and employes to settle their own difficulties for and by and with themselves. The means and the justification for settlement of such disputes by statutory enactments, regulations and state officials.

"If labor men in Parliament, then assent can rarely be forced upon them."

WILL MR. TAFT EXPLAIN?

Philadelphia, July 24.—In an article printed in a local paper, ex-President Taft declares that the boycott provisions in the league of nations covenant will be a powerful weapon to force nations to abide by this world agreement.

Where Mr. Taft was a federal judge he opposed workers using the boycott and some of the decisions on this subject are now being used by courts. Trade unionists are asking how the former judge can approve nations using the boycott and not labor.

The situation has become so embarrassing to the Anti-Boycott association that it has changed its name. The organization recently changed its name to the league for industrial rights.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Peoria, Ill., July 24.—Wages of newspaper printers have been advanced 10 cents an hour by an arbitration award. The award dates back to May 25 last.

Winnipeg, Manitoba, July 24.—An arbitration award of $45.50 a week for day work and $47.50 for night work has been appealed by Typographical union No. 191. Under an agreement between the International Typographical union and the International Printing Pressmen's association, either party to a local arbitration board may appeal to the latter if local parties accept this form of arbitration.

FISHERS TO CO-OP.

Warrenton, Ore., July 24. — Dissatisfied with prices by canneries operating on the Columbia river, fishermen soliciting union membership among employes of a West Virginia company who had signed contracts not to join the union.

CANADA UNIONS TO MEET.

Windsor, Ontario, July 24.—The Canadian Trades and Labor Congress will hold its annual convention in this city beginning Monday, September 12. The congress is a legislative body and is composed of international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

"GAN'T-STRIKE" LAW PINCHES EMPLOYERS

Topeka, Kan., July 24.—Employers in the Kansas coal fields murmur against Governor Allen's anti-strike law. They say that they are regulated under the law, but they were willing to except this if the law "applied to labor." But as labor is concerned the law is a failure, and the employers see that if it is to be enforced the state must inaugurate an extensive jailing system.

John R. Dean, Topeka lawyer and member of the anti-strike Kansas Employers' association, gives a warning to Governor Allen that his legislation is a failure because it has failed to control labor, and the masses are used against the employers:

"The law may require (as it does) that a private industry pay not cease production without a permit from the court of industrial relations, it will follow that the law will force the former to reduce his production or to cease production. A little widening of the circle and this one will be cutting off the farmer just how many acres of wheat he may plant, how he may cultivate and also fix the price he must accept for the same.

"Such a thing as voluntary industrial court law undertaken to clothe the state with the power to regulate matters over private industries, and the liberty of the workers and partisans is a sewer-pipe affair. Industrial wages offered, it is unconstitutional, and the most revolutionary legislation of which this generation furnishes any example."

MUST PAY CHILDREN'S TAX.

Washington, July 24.—Virginia employers of children under 14 years of age must pay $10 a year instead of 10 per cent on their annual profits, despite the more lenient provisions of the state's child labor law, which permit 12-year-old children to work in canneries when school is not in session.

The United States bureau of industrial relations declares that the state law affords no protection from the federal tax and that the federal government will not accept state employment certificates to secure exemption from the tax, but mentioned to keep on file federal certificates for all children on their pay rolls for the inspection of federal agents. The federal tax is collected from employers who employ children under 14 years of age are employed at any time or where children between 14 and 16 are permitted to work after 7 p. m.

STRIKERS STANDING FIRM.

Evansville, Ind., July 24.—An injunction against striking furniture workers has failed to break the strike of 2,000 workers for higher wages and better conditions. The employes insist that they accept what they have asked for and refuse to operate under the union shop system, and the strikers suggest that they will not be tied by a contract with every production under the sun, as would be the case with the 29 members of the Furniture Workers' union out of the 2,700 who joined the strike.

It is stated that Evansville has the largest furniture factories that set wage city in the United States and the strikers are asking if the same conditions do not exist in this shop is because they want Evansville to maintain this shameful record.

PACKERS IN CONTROL.

Madison, Wis., July 24.—In discussing the announcement that Armour & Co. have reorganized with a capital stock of $100,000,000 against $20,000,000 four years ago, the La Follette's Weekly says:

"Working men are being told to go back to work and increase production. The public is told to expect to think that production makes any difference in price in the packing industry. No. The packing industry is powerful enough to control prices as it sees fit.

"And a department of justice, headed by Palmer, makes agreements with this crowd of sky-plotters."

SUFFICIENT LAW NOW.

St. Louis Mo., July 24.—The American Bar association, which holds its annual meeting in this city August 24, announces that its committee on law reform has considered additional criminal powers but unconstitutional searches and seizures by public officials. The courts have sufficient power now to stop these illegal practices.

VICTIMIZING WORKERS.

Bridgeport, Conn., July 24. — The central labor union has protested against alleged attempts of the packing workers in large numbers while importing men to take their places. The union charges this policy of flooding the city with workers in an attempt to destroy living standards established by the unions.

HOLD NO CONVENTION.

New York, July 24.—By a six-to-one referendum vote members of the Federated Shipwrights, have decided to hold no convention this year.

ITALIAN SEAMEN USE CO-OPERATIVE METHOD

New York, July 24.—The Crema, operated by the Cosenza Line, is paid, a co-operative association of Italy's 1,500 marine officers and seamen, has arrived at this port. The vessel is one of five large freighters that have been requisitioned from the Italian government, and is manned by 44 men. During an interview with a local newspaper an officer of the vessel said:

"We are not bolsheviks or radicals. We merely are operating on a co-operative basis and control the future. Each year an election of officers is held. The board of directors must include representatives of ships' officers and their crews.

"The rates of pay are the same as on private vessels. The truth in the charge that we pay the captain more than the crew is untrue or that there is no discipline. Indeed, the discipline is even better than it was before the association was established. There will be no mutinies on the high seas. The paltry sailors will be expelled from the union and blacklisted. Better treatment of the men is assured for the reason that instead of complaining to the captain when one is collected or ill-treated by officers and eating he should report to the officers' table charges before the union and compel a hearing. The captain thus has more authority than before and the men have better treatment. We are working in this direction toward getting the ideal working conditions we started out for."

CIGAR MAKERS STICK.

Tampa, Fla., July 24.—Cigar manufacturers have failed to break the strike of 2,000 workers. Employers are attempting to establish the non-union shop, and as a preliminary distributed circulars to the women several weeks ago. The employers declare that the union is violating the Sherman anti-trust law by supporting the strike.

The Cigar Makers' International union is directing the strike and has appealed to the trade union movement and sympathizers for financial assistance, because of the unusual number of workers involved and because of an effort on the part of anti-trade union movement.

The A. F. of L. has given support.

Recently more than 100 factories invited the strikers to return to work. The invitation was accepted by less than 50 men and women. The manufacturers' antagonism is shown by their refusal to confer with the United States department of labor to adjust matters. The department's conciliator was told by the bosses that they would not permit of "outside interference."

FOOD EXPORTS DOUBLE.

Washington, July 24.—The amount of foodstuffs sent from this country to foreign countries has doubled in the last five years, according to the United States department of agriculture. Many items show a still greater increase, condensed milk, for instance showing an increase of 2,328 per cent.

"There need be no alarm as to the ability of the United States to hold its own in foreign trade in agricultural products," says the report. "The surplus left for export of the exports of bread stuffs were increasing each year."

Despite these figures, editors and publicists sing the old song that the country is impoverished and that in the United States is because of its scarcity.

CAR MEN ACT TOGETHER.

New Orleans, July 24.—Striking street car men have refused a settlement offered by the Louisiana Power company that they return to work as individuals. The company is now being operated by the court through a receiver and the cooperation of the Southern Railway Men's union. The attitude is a blow at the open shop, anti-union sentiment among certain local employers.

GETS $1 AN HOUR.

Peoria, Ill., July 24. — Machinist conventions in this city have won a new wage agreement with the Machinists' union of the minimum is $1 an hour, or an advance of 12 1-2 cents.

IRON WORKERS GAIN.

Fort Worth, Texas, July 24. — Organized iron workers have raised wages from $1 an hour to $1.25.

LABOR'S NON-PARTISAN ACTIVITY MAKES MEN, NOT "ORDER TAKERS"

Washington, July 24.—Trade unionists are acquiring new ideals and developing new activities and activities as a result of the most intensive non-partisan campaign in the history of trade unionism.

In previous elections declarations have been urged with more or less vigor by organized labor, but nothing can equal the present movement. Reference to this activity is not guess work or political prophecy, but is based on reports received by the A. F. of L. national non-partisan political campaign committee. These records are not secret, subject only to the scrutiny of some select committee. They are the public action of thousands of trade unions in every section of the country. They show that more than 6,000 locals have appointed committees of three members each to urge the non-partisan plan and the list is increasing at the rate of 100 to 200 many instances. More than 500 central bodies have appointed committees of six members each for the purpose and many state bodies have also similar committees.

In union meetings and in shops, mills and mines, in transportation and in the field these committees distribute literature, explain labor's demands, urge labor unity and the necessity for workers to cast their ballot in the interest of social justice.

These committees are organizing local and congressional district city and town conferences to further the non-partisan program.

COURT AIDS NON-UNIONISM.

Philadelphia, July 24.—Judge Sinkler refused to issue a writ to the Camden Heating company in its effort against union activities, pending an injunction against the organized workers "and others that might get in the controversy." The following section of the injunction was refused:

"From taking any action or making any statement or adopting any resolution or acting under any resolution or calling attention to any resolution or regulation with intent to compel or induce parties with whom the complainant contracts to terminate them or persons who might otherwise contract with the complainant to refrain from so doing, to prevent or obstruct the performance of any contract by the complainant or to influence the action or conduct of men who are working or who might otherwise work upon any building or buildings in which the complainant is interested, or has or which otherwise might make interested with the complainant is interested."

WORKERS HAVE RIGHTS.

Chicago, July 24.—The public has rights, of course, but so have workers," says the International Steam Engineer, which declares that "the public has a right to live in a contented enjoyment of its rights while the workers have rights.

"It is regrettable that we are compelled to strike to better our lower level. It is more essential to the welfare of society that the working men and women be well paid and have satisfactory working conditions than the public should not be annoyed.

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In quashing the indictment against Haywood, it stated that even if the allegation could be proven this did not constitute an overt act against the laws of West Virginia.

WHY EDUCATION LAGS.

Washington, July 24.—In the current issue of School Life, issued by the United States bureau of education, is a discussion of existing conditions in the south that are often ignored by those who charge the south with being behind the times.

"Serious as it undoubtedly is, the illiteracy problem itself does not constitute the great disadvantage under which the south rests as compared with other sections," it is stated. "The principal difficulties are:

"First, the number of children to be educated is relatively far greater in the south.

"Second, property values in the south are much less per capita than in any other part of the United States.

"Third, the population of the south is too sparse for efficient school organization."

The figures given on the average every square mile of the area of the northern states contains nearly enough children to fill and keep a full quota of children, but in the south it would require that this area must be drawn upon to produce the same number of white pupils. In the south the area must be united to obtain an equal number of negro pupils.

It is apparent what this means in the organization of graded schools, in the supervision of instruction and in economy of expenditure," says School Life.

HELD FOR CONTEMPT.

Topeka, Kan., July 24.—The state supreme court has upheld Judge Hazen Allen, of Pittsburg, Kan., circuit court, in his contempt proceedings against Governor Allen's anti-strike law. When the labor unionist refused to appear before the Allen court he was jailed for contempt of court by Judge Allen. Later he was released on bail pending the outcome of the supreme court. The court did not pass on the constitutionality of the law as the Allen court failed to submit it of the industrial court to summon witnesses. When asked for the court's decision Howat indicated that he maintained the same attitude that he had before the court. He said he was not looking for trouble but if trouble he could find it.

BRIBERY NO CRIME.

Williamson, W. Va., July 24.—George R. C. Wiles, member of the state senate from this district committee, has been exonerated from an indictment by a special grand jury which has been investigating the murders at Matewan when Baldwin-Felts detectives killed seven coal miners from their homes without due process of law.

Wiles was charged with offering money to a deputy sheriff in connection with organizers to leave Mingo county.

In quashing the indictment against Haywood, it stated that even if the allegation could be proven this did not constitute an overt act against the laws of West Virginia.

CONTRACT SYSTEM HIT.

Philadelphia, July 24.—The contract system of cleaning streets in this city leads to "slaughter of horses and drivers, unsanitary conditions and exorbitant sums of money, is a Bindaub of graft and favoritism and is perverted streets and is tainted with politics.

This, in effect, is the conclusion drawn by a board of engineers, after a thorough investigation. The board recommends that next year the city take over the work of street cleaning.

MOLDERS WANT 6 HOURS.

Edmonton, Alberta, July 24.—Iron molders have asked for a 44-hour week to enforce an eight-hour day and a minimum wage of $7.12 cents an hour. The old rate was 75 cents and a nine-hour day.

PAINTERS ADVANCE.

Marysville, Cal., July 24.—Wages have been advanced to $6 for painters' union No. 144.

HIGH COST OF LIVING AND PROFITEERING.

No factor contributes more to industrial unrest and instability than excessive profiteering. It is a clear-cut economic fact that the cost of living has advanced more rapidly than have wages. The claim that increasing wages make necessary increased prices is false.

Existing high and excessive prices are due to the present inflation of money and credits, to profiteering by those who manufacture, sell and market products and to burdens levied by middlemen and speculators. We urge:

The deflation of currency; prevention of hoarding and unfair price fixing; establishment of co-operative movements operated under the Rochdale system; making accessible all income tax returns and, duly denied declarations as a direct and truthful means of revealing excessive costs and profits. *(From Labor, Its Grievances, Protests and Demands adopted by Labor's Conference, December 13, 1919.)*

HIGH COST OF LIVING AND HOUSING.

The ownership of homes, free from the grasp of exploitative and speculative interests, will make far more efficient workers, more contented families and better citizens. The government should, therefore, inaugurate a practical system of home ownership whereby the workers may borrow money at a low rate of interest and under favorable terms to build their own homes.

Credit should also be extended to voluntary non-profit making housing and joint tenancy associations. States and municipalities should be freed from the restrictions preventing their undertaking proper housing projects and should be permitted to engage in other necessary enterprises relating thereto. The erection and maintenance of dwellings where migratory workers may find lodging and nourishing food during the periods of unemployment should be encouraged and supported by municipalities. *(From Labor, Its Grievances, Protests and Demands adopted by Labor's Conference, December 13, 1919.)*